

Please amend claim 8 as set forth below in clean form. Additionally, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(iii), the amended claim is set forth in a marked-up version in the pages attached to this Amendment.

8. (Amended) A magnetic recording medium including a lower non-magnetic layer containing at least a carbon black and a radiation curing type binder resin on a non-magnetic support and an upper magnetic layer having a thickness of 0.30 μm or less on the lower non-magnetic layer, the upper magnetic layer containing at least a ferromagnetic powder, a binder resin, and an abrasive having a Mohs hardness of 6 or higher and a smaller average particle size than a thickness of the upper magnetic layer, the magnetic recording medium produced by a process comprising the steps of:

preparing respectively a lower non-magnetic layer coating material including at least the carbon black dispersed into the radiation curing type binder resin, and an upper magnetic layer coating material including at least the ferromagnetic powder, and the abrasive to be formed into the binder resin,

applying the lower non-magnetic layer coating material onto a non-magnetic support, drying the coating material, and carrying out a smoothing treatment of and irradiating with radiation to a resulting layer to form the lower non-magnetic layer, and then

applying the upper magnetic layer coating material onto the lower non-magnetic layer, drying the coating material, and carrying out the smoothing treatment of the resulting layer to form the upper magnetic layer.

Please add claim 9 as follows:

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9. A magnetic recording medium produced by the process in accordance with claim 8, further comprising the step of carrying out an orientation treatment after the upper magnetic layer coating material is applied.

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested.

This preliminary amendment cancels claims 6 and 7, and adds new claim 9. An early and favorable action on the material is respectfully requested. Should there be any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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